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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 1998, at 12:30 p.m.

## Senate

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1998

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Dear Father, we come to You as Your daughters and sons because there is no other place we can go where love is as freely given, costly forgiveness as graciously offered, assurance of our value more creatively communicated, and where our hurts are more effectively healed. You know us as we are. In a world where we are not permitted to be weak, You receive us with our weaknesses and make us strong. In an atmosphere where we are compelled to win and spin, it is good to be able to be real with You. May the strength and security of this quiet moment with You prepare us for a day in which we can enjoy life, work creatively together in spite of misunderstandings, and bring delight to the people You have entrusted to be our family and friends. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

Mr. ROTH. Thank you, Mr. President.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will immediately re-

sume consideration of the IRS reform conference report. It is expected that there will be lengthy debate during today's session on the conference report, with a final vote occurring by late afternoon. In addition to the conference report, the Senate may consider any other legislative or executive items that may be cleared for action.

Members are reminded that a cloture motion was filed last night to the substitute amendment to the product liability bill. Therefore, Senators have until 1 p.m. today to file first-degree amendments to the substitute. The cloture vote will occur on Thursday, July 9, at a time to be determined by the two leaders.

Once again, the majority leader would like to remind Members that July will be a busy month, with late night sessions and votes. The cooperation of all Members will be necessary for the Senate to complete its work prior to the August recess.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. AL-LARD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RESTRUCTURING AND REFORM ACT OF 1998—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 2676, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany H.R. 2676, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to restructure and reform the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the conference report.

Mr. ROTH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, if my colleagues' July Fourth recess was anything like mine, then they heard a great deal from their constituents concerning the bill that we bring to the floor today. The Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 is legislation that not only has the interests but the support of Americans everywhere, and with good reason.

For far too long, the Internal Revenue Service has been allowed to consolidate immense power without the counterbalance of accountability. For far too long, the agency has been allowed to operate in darkness, hiding behind section 6103 authority, using authority granted them by Congress to, in some cases, bludgeon taxpayers.

Last summer, the National Commission on Restructuring the IRS, following an extensive review of the IRS, issued a report that called for major changes to the agency.

In September, the Finance Committee held 3 days of hearings which identified numerous additional problems and some terrible, even unconscionable taxpayer and IRS-employee abuses within the IRS.

Those hearings were followed by others which demonstrated clearly that

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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